

rests. All races, all colors, all nationalities contain persons entitled to be recognized everywhere as equals of other men. I am bound to record my protest, if I stand alone."

And stand alone he did. The final vote against the Chinese in the Senate was 76-1. What Senator Hoar stood up for is what I am asking Congress to stand up for today: that all people, no matter the color of their skin, or the nation of origin, are the equals of every other man or woman.

America came to be what it is today through immigrants who came from all corners of the world. Chinese immigrants were amongst them. They sought a place to live that was founded upon liberty and equality. They came in search of the American Dream—that if you worked hard, you could build a good life. It is why my grandfather came to the United States.

But when the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed, the truths that this Nation holds as self-evident—that all are endowed with the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—were discounted by the very ones elected to uphold them.

And so for a generation of our ancestors, like my grandfather, who were told for six decades by the U.S. Government that the land of the free wasn't open to them, it is long past time that Congress officially and formally acknowledges these ugly laws that targeted Chinese immigrants, and express sincere regret for these actions.

With my resolution, Congress will acknowledge the injustice of the Chinese Exclusion Act, express regret for the lives it destroyed, and make sure that the prejudice that stained our Nation is never repeated again. And it will demonstrate that today is a different day and that today we stand side by side for a stronger America.

AUTHORIZING MORE WARFARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, last week this body passed the National Defense Authorization Act. In doing so, yet again, it put a stamp of approval on a more violent, belligerent, and militaristic defense policy.

While my friends in the majority continue to posture about Federal spending, they are eager to authorize billions and billions on military programs and policies that don't make America safer.

During last week's debate over the Defense bill, they voted down an amendment that would have brought the Department of Defense funding levels down to the same 2008 levels they want to impose on domestic discretionary spending. Obviously, the Republicans believe in a blank check for the Pentagon, but austerity for everyone else.

They rejected my amendment to eliminate the V-22 Osprey, a multibil-

lion-dollar aircraft with a performance and safety record so shoddy that even Dick Cheney tried to eliminate it when he was Secretary of Defense. They also rejected an amendment that would have prohibited the use of funds for permanent bases in Iraq and Afghanistan, despite the fact that an anonymous officer in Afghanistan was quoted in yesterday's Washington Post as saying, "We've become addicted to building." That officer added that supplemental appropriations, with its billions of dollars for construction, "have been like crack cocaine for the military."

It gets worse, Mr. Speaker. The Defense bill includes a radically expanded authorization for the use of military force. It completely undermines the War Powers Act, empowering the President, whichever President, whom ever is in that office, to declare war regardless of whether an attack against the United States is imminent, regardless of whether our national security has been threatened. The language doesn't even specify any geographic limitation.

□ 1010

The Republican majority couldn't even bring themselves to support an amendment that called simply for a plan within 60 days to transfer responsibility for Afghanistan's security to Afghanistan—a plan—so we can begin the process of redevelopment. Just a plan within 60 days. As our distinguished Democratic leader said here on the floor last week when we were debating this, who could be against that?

Well, apparently the overwhelming majority of House Republicans could be against it and are against it and voted against it. Then they topped it off by voting to eliminate the modest public investment in the U.S. Institute of Peace, an institute that carries out real, well-respected, lifesaving work on peaceful conflict resolution around the world.

Last night the majority played a game of chicken with the global financial credibility of the United States, holding a vote on the debt ceiling that was designed to fail.

I challenge them: You want meaningful spending cuts as a condition for a debt ceiling increase? Then stop giving the Pentagon unlimited use of the taxpayers' ATM card. Stop putting the full faith and credit of the United States on the line in order to wage more war.

You believe in fiscal discipline, and you think everything should be on the table? Then let's talk about saving \$10 billion a month by ending the war in Afghanistan, and let's bring our troops home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

HONORING JACK SUTHERLIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a constituent of mine

from the 23rd District of California. His name is Mr. Jack Sutherlin.

Mr. Sutherlin, of Santa Maria, California, served honorably in the Coast Guard during World War II. He was stationed off the California coast. Mr. Sutherlin's brave actions on December 25, 1943, resulted in the safe passage of two escort carriers down the Pacific, along the coast, and into San Diego Bay.

I am very proud to represent Mr. Sutherlin, an example to us all for his dedication to our country and for his lifetime of serving our community.

Mr. Speaker, the debt we owe to our Nation's veterans is immeasurable, and Mr. Sutherlin is no exception. In fact, he's an example of those of that Greatest Generation who served nobly during the Second World War. His actions in 1943 leave me humbled and honored by his sacrifices. We can never repay his service, but we can act honorably on his behalf and behave in a way that is indicative of a grateful Nation.

Singling out events like these are important to remind us that acknowledging our veterans' bravery and sacrifice is never done. Despite the decades that have passed, our country remains indebted to the heroic actions of Mr. Sutherlin and his many brothers in arms.

It's also imperative to remember that we are still a Nation at war and that veterans who served decades ago or just months ago or are serving today deserve our support, our appreciation, and our profound gratitude. Mr. Sutherlin waited too long to be officially recognized, and I'm sure he would agree that all veterans deserve timely and genuine acknowledgements of their service.

I am proud of the work my staff completed to assist Mr. Sutherlin achieve a formal recognition from the commandant of the United States Coast Guard. Just a few days ago, the veterans clinic in Santa Maria, California, hosted a reception and a ceremony where the letter of recognition from the commandant was read and where many of the Coast Guard on active duty stationed at Morro Bay, California, were present to see someone of the generation preceding them being acknowledged.

I consider my work on behalf of veterans to be one of my most sacred responsibilities as a Member of Congress. Veterans like Mr. Sutherlin represent the best this country has to offer, and ensuring his work is recognized is of paramount importance. It's an honor to represent a man of such integrity, conviction, and dedication to his country. I'm proud to include his service in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States Congress.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.